

FIRE FIGHTING

Primary Agencies: Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) –
Forests and Lands
Department of Safety – Fire Marshal’s Office

Support Agencies: Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Air
Resources
Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Water
Department of Safety – Fire Standards and Training – EMS
Department of Transportation – Aeronautics
Fish and Game Department
National Weather Service (NWS)

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

To provide a coordinated response of State resources for the mitigation of wildland fires, rural/urban fires, structural fire, and incidents of a magnitude that require the expertise of the fire fighting community resulting from a natural, man-made or technological disaster within the State of New Hampshire.

B. Scope

The State's assistance under this function shall include actions taken through the application of personnel, equipment, and technical expertise to control and suppress incidents that have exceeded available resources. These functions will be in accordance with the State of New Hampshire’s Revised Statutes Annotated (RSAs).

II. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. The Department of Safety – Fire Marshal’s Office is the primary agency responsible for supporting State and local operations to mitigate the effects of urban conflagration incidents in the State.
2. DRED – Forests and Lands is the primary agency responsible for supporting State and local operations to mitigate the effects of wild land fires in the State.

B. Organization

1. The functional organization structure of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is shown in **Figure 4-1, Functional Organization of Firefighting**.

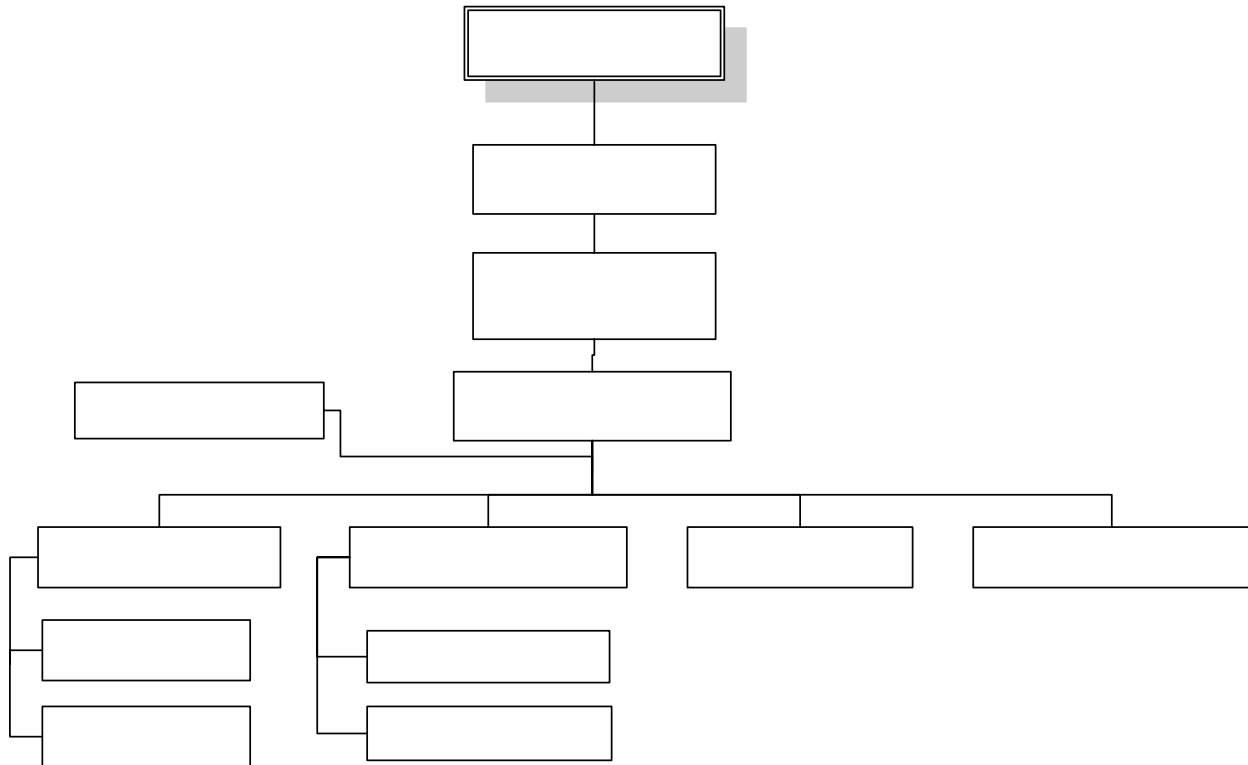


Figure 4-1, Functional Organization of Firefighting

2. Firefighting will manage and coordinate the activities of fire activities surrounding existing or potential disaster conditions. This will be accomplished by monitoring resources in support of local and mutual aid agencies. Firefighting will utilize established fire processes and procedures. Primary responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs rests with local incident commanders in coordination with the State EOC and appropriate agencies.
3. Firefighting may also be activated at the request of the appropriate primary agency, or when called by another agency or by the local EOC, through the Bureau of Emergency Management (BEM) when an incident exists that may require the support of Firefighting and/or other ESFs.
4. The primary agency Coordinator and any appropriate, qualified State EOC personnel, as required, will staff Firefighting.

5. ***Interagency Coordination***

Upon notification of an emergency requiring the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or other significant State response, the primary agency for Firefighting will brief and consult with designated essential personnel, support agency representatives, and the BEM Director or their designee to implement SOPs/SOGs in support of local fire fighting operations. That response may involve:

- a. **Other Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)**
- b. **State Agencies**
- c. **Non-State Agencies**
- d. **Federal Agencies**

6. ***Specialized Teams/Units***

- a. Specialized local and Federal teams can be brought in for resources if the proper channels for requesting assistance are followed. Proper declarations will be required, and requests should be made on an executive level to mobilize the teams.
- b. Some Federal teams are: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), Disaster Mortuary Team (DMORT), Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)
- c. Local teams: Regional HazMat teams

7. ***Operational Facilities/Sites***

Operational facilities/sites are located in various locations throughout the State. Sites listed by New Hampshire officials are: fire departments, dispatch centers, local and State EOCs, and incident field offices.

- a. The fire departments throughout the State are primarily municipal and are controlled by the jurisdiction in which they reside.
- b. Associations these agencies participate in are either mutual aid agreements or memoranda of understanding (MOUs), or regional compacts.
- c. Dispatch centers are controlled by the jurisdiction in which they reside, except when the agency is a State agency. State dispatch centers are owned and operated by the State.
- d. Incident field offices are also a State owned facilities and are activated by their authority, as needed.

C. Notification and Activation

1. Upon notification by BEM of an emergency or an impending incident of disastrous proportions, the appropriate primary agency will be requested to activate and coordinate Firefighting activities from the EOC.
2. The BEM Director and/or State EOC Operations Officer would request activation of Firefighting. The appropriate agency will provide one Coordinator (Coordinator plus an Assistant, if needed), to the State EOC.
3. Once Firefighting activation is initiated:
 - a. The appropriate primary agency representative(s) will implement existing operating procedures, mutual aid agreements, and notifications as outlined within existing protocols.
 - b. Deployment of personnel and resources will take place in accordance with established mobilization guidelines.
 - c. Assimilate and review resource lists.

D. Emergency Response Actions

1. The activities of Firefighting will generally commence once primary jurisdictions have exceeded their fire fighting capabilities and have requested assistance.
2. Designate a Firefighting representative to report to the State EOC as soon as possible after notification.
3. Brief or be briefed by the EOC Liaison Officer and ensure that communications interoperability is established and maintained with local command and control, primary agencies, support agencies, Federal counterparts, and others as deemed necessary according to existing procedures.
4. Determine initial and ongoing activities and damage assessments through established intelligence gathering procedures.
5. Determine and resolve issues regarding resource shortages and bottlenecks, interagency conflicts, and policy matters, as necessary.
6. Maintain close contacts with local, State, and Federal agencies and the EOC.
7. Maintain complete logs of activities taken, resource orders, records, and reports.

8. Provide logistics support for mobilization of Federal resources.
9. Task support agencies as necessary to fulfill Firefighting assigned roles and responsibilities.

E. Recovery Actions

Initiation of recovery operations will occur when feasibly possible and will follow normal field operation protocols.

F. Deactivation

Partial deactivation would occur based upon the extent of the current response and recovery actions and at the discretion of the BEM Director. Full deactivation would occur at the termination of the operational elements at the State EOC.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Co-Primary Agencies

1. ***General***
 - a. Provide assistance for State and local fire fighting operations involving urban conflagration or wild land incidents, as required.
 - b. Coordinate with local authorities in the provision of personnel, equipment, and/or technical expertise to ensure sustainment of fire fighting operations during emergencies/disasters.
 - c. Ensure appropriate communication links are established with local or field elements and other agencies, as required.
 - d. Coordinate with Resource Support in the identification and acquisition of additional fire fighting equipment and supplies to support local response operations.
 - e. Develop a contingency plan in the event that conditions change or don't respond to the primary plan.
 - f. Coordinate with Health and Medical Services to provide for the health and safety of State emergency response personnel.
 - g. Ensure that an Incident Action Plan is developed for each operational period and that it is coordinated with the EOC Operations Officer and Information and Planning.

- h. Collect and maintain the following ESF status information and coordinate with Information and Planning to ensure inclusion into the Situation Report. (SITREP):
 - 1) Damage Assessment Information.
 - 2) Status of fire fighting activities.
 - 3) Status of Critical Facilities (i.e., fire stations, communications towers, repeater sites, storage facilities, etc.).
 - 4) Staffing and resource capabilities and shortfalls.
 - 5) Unmet Needs (i.e., staff rehabilitation, CISD/M, sanitation, etc.).
 - 6) Major Firefighting issues/activities.
 - 7) Allocation of fire fighting resources.
 - 8) Status of operational facilities (i.e., staging areas, fixed/mobile command posts, etc.).
- i. Work with BEM to co-ordinate requests, and activate Emergency Management Assistance Compact agreements (EMAC).
- j. Coordinate with Communications and Alerting to provide communications support, as needed.
- k. Coordinate with Transportation to obtain assistance when required.
- l. Coordinate with Volunteers and Donations and American Red Cross to obtain assistance with rehabilitation of fire fighters (food).
- m. Coordinate with Mass Care and Shelter for the relocation of displaced victims from natural and man-made disasters.
- n. Coordinate with Law Enforcement and Security to obtain assistance in protection of evidence, protection of the incident scene, and traffic control.

2. ***Department of Safety – Fire Marshal’s Office***

- a. Coordinate State activities during urban responses.
- b. Liaison between on-scene Incident Commander (IC) and Federal and State agencies.

- c. Mobilize available personnel and equipment from unimpacted jurisdictions within the State, as needed, and utilize existing mutual aids pacts.
 - d. Provide liaison between local fire officers and State and Federal agencies.
- 3. ***Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) – Forests and Lands***
 - a. Coordinate State activities during wild land fires.
 - b. Aid and direct municipal fire departments in wild land fire prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression.
 - c. Maintain Forest Fire Protection Agreements.
 - d. Maintain suppression and detection equipment, resources, and supplies.
 - e. Provide agency resources and logistical support, upon request.
 - f. Provide for security and traffic control in State parks.
 - g. Provide liaison between local fire officers and State and Federal agencies during wild land fire fighting operations.

B. Support Agencies

- 1. ***General***
 - a. Provide operational support and agency resources, where appropriate, in support of the management and operation of Firefighting.
 - b. Assess the fire fighting capabilities and resources of the support agencies.
 - c. Provide periodic updates regarding agency activities and/or operations.
 - d. Implement interagency agreements and/or memoranda of agreement/understanding, as needed, to support Firefighting activities/operations.
- 2. ***Civil Air Patrol (CAP)***
 - a. Provide air support, as needed during wild land and other large-scale fire fighting operations.
 - b. Provide aerial photography capabilities, as available.

3. ***Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Air Resources***

- a. Provide operational Support and agency resources, as requested.
- b. Evaluate the impact of smoke and burning chemical contaminants on the downwind environment. Provide general impact guidance, as necessary.

4. ***Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Water***

- a. Provide operational Support and agency resources, as requested.
- b. Evaluate the impact of the high volume fire demand on the public water system's sources, storage tanks and operational readiness.
- c. Evaluate the impact of large volumes of runoff water from fire on the downstream environment.
- d. Provide laboratory resources to monitor the impact of the high water demand on utility's compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

5. ***Department of Safety – Fire Standards and Training – EMS***

Maintain a database of fire fighter certifications and qualifications.

6. ***Department of Transportation – Aeronautics***

Provide air support during wild land and other large-scale fire fighting operations, as needed.

7. ***Fish and Game Department***

- a. Provide access and traffic control within areas under agency's jurisdiction.
- b. Assist in security.
- c. Enforce established fire bans.

8. ***National Weather Service (NWS)***

- a. Provide weather related; watches, warnings, and up to date weather reports on current weather conditions.
- b. Can provide plume modeling for smoke plumes, and related hazardous materials incidents.

IV. References

A. Plans

1. NH Hazardous Materials Incident Emergency Response Plan
2. State Fire Crew Mobilization Plan
3. State Wide Wildland Fire Plan
4. New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Directory
5. The New Hampshire RERP
6. The Federal Response Plan, April 1999
7. The Regional Response Plan, March 1994
8. Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission

B. Standard Operating Procedures/Guides (SOPs/SOGs)

1. Firefighting Alert and Notification SOG
2. Firefighting Activation and Deactivation SOG
3. Firefighting Position Descriptions
4. Firefighting Position Checklists

C. Compacts/Mutual Aid/Memoranda of Agreements

1. White Mountain National Forest Agreement
2. Interagency Agreements
3. Mutual Aid Agreements
4. The Federal/State Fire Suppression Agreement

V. Attachments

A. Forms

1. Chronological Event Log
2. Incident Report
3. Status Report
4. Message Form
5. BEM Emergency Shift Change
6. State Agency Emergency Shift Change
7. Federal / State Point of Contact Worksheet

NOTE: All forms are bound separately and are located in the State EOC.